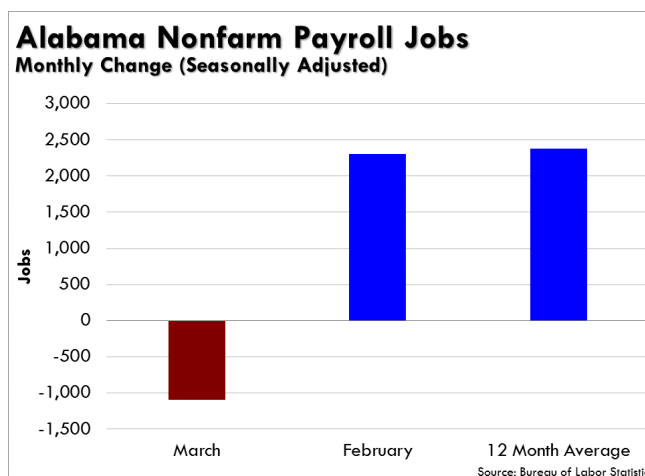
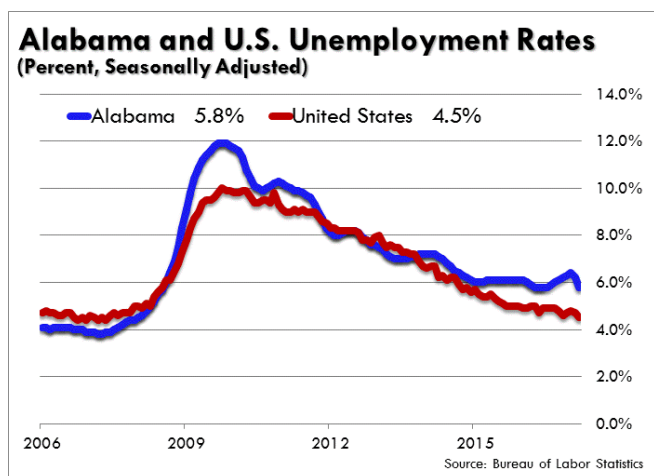


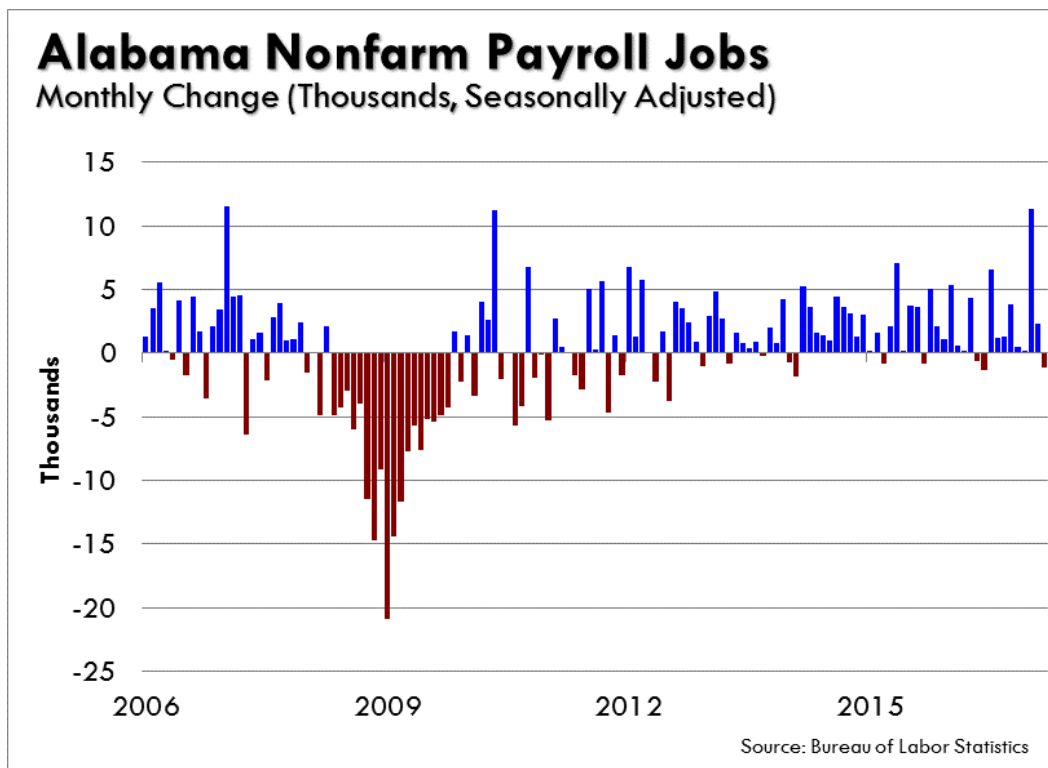


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Alabama lost 1,100 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage point to 5.8 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Alabama added 28,500 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point from 5.9 percent.
- **In March, Alabama's private sector lost 1,700 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 24,900 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Alabamans fell by 7,910 in March**, and over the past year 42,769 Alabamans found jobs.
- Alabama's **labor force participation rate increased to 57.7 percent** from 57.6 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.5 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Alabama Payroll Employment

Alabama lost 1,100 jobs, or 0.06 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Alabama added 2,300 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Alabama increased by 28,500, or 1.45 percent. Alabama nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Alabama ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

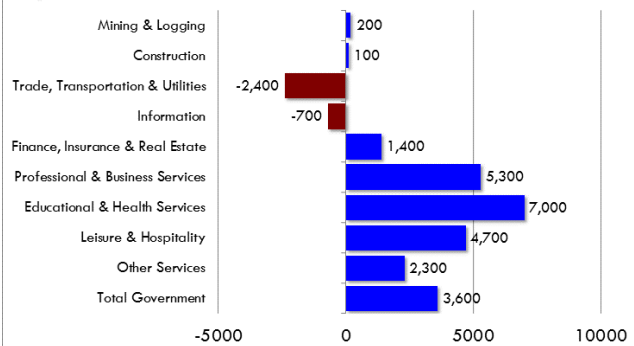
During March, Alabama's private-sector lost 1,700 jobs, or 0.11 percent. The private-sector in Alabama added 1,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Alabama increased by 24,900, or 1.57 percent. Alabama private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Alabama ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Professional & Business Services (+1,100) and Total Government (+600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-2,000) and Construction (-1,200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+7,000) and Professional & Business Services (+5,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,400) and Information (-700).

Change in Alabama Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted.

Alabama Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

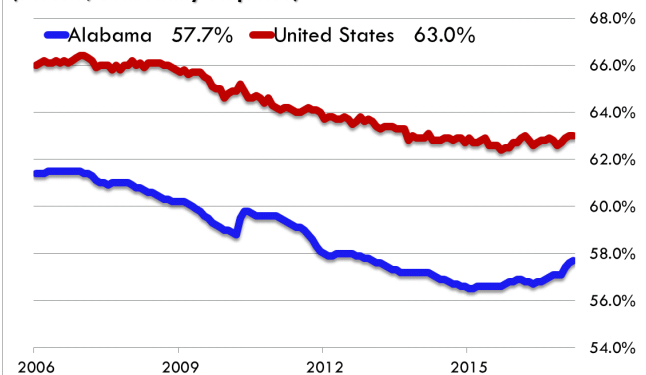
The labor force participation rate in Alabama rose to 57.7 percent in March from 57.6 percent the prior month. At 57.7 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Alabama is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Alabama was 61.1 percent in April 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Alabama occurred in September 1997 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.5 percent in February 2015. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Alabama. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Alabama civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 54.3 percent in March from 54.0 percent the prior month. At 54.3 percent, Alabama has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios

Alabama and U.S. Labor Force Participation (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Alabama is 0.8 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama was 58.8 percent in April 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Alabama occurred in April 1998 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 52.0 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 50.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

